

Learning Report on Clinical Elective Placement at The University of Cambridge's School of Clinical Medicine

As the very last pit of my learning journey as a medical student, I had an eye-opening and unforgettable experience in Cambridge.

During my 6-weeks placement I was assigned to the Department of Radiology and rotated through different units within the department. I am honoured to have the opportunity to appreciate different radiological studies and study many aspects of the running of the department from clinical procedures to the work of a multi-disciplinary team. No education is complete without experience. It was an invaluable opportunity for me to revise the clinical knowledge acquired in previous years, so as to apply them into daily practice.

Through the program, I have learnt a lot more about the medical education and health care system in the UK and once again revisited the importance of a good doctor and patient relationship, which I believe is of paramount importance of my future care of patients. I also gained invaluable experience from doctors and mentors who spent their precious time tutoring me.

Improving patient care is always a goal for medical professionals. The care of patients not only about their medical illnesses, but also as a whole person is always a challenge for us in Hong Kong. The reason behind is complicated, but mostly due to constrain in manpower and resources.

From what I observed in my brief stay in the UK, medical professionals are working very hard to achieve whole-person care for their patients. I am glad to be taking part in this process and I truly benefited a lot from it.

No doubt that there is a much higher doctor-to-patient ratio in the UK. Thus doctors to have a longer consultation time with their patients to have a better communication with them. This enables the doctors to have a better understanding of patients' idea, concern and expectation. A better rapport between doctor and patients is vital for carrying out a better care for the patients.

Addenbrooke's Hospital also carries out a lot of clinical audits and evaluates doctors' performance from time to time by methods such as patient's comfort scores during procedures. In order to combine opinions from different doctors, multiple-disciplinary-meetings (MDTs) are often carried out. Through the meetings, doctors from multiple specialties can input their expertise on the discussion difficult cases.

From participating in the Hospital's work throughout the month, I do sincerely feel the passion of the healthcare professionals. It is a pity that my stay in the hospital is limited, as there are still lots of things yet to be learned. It is my honour to have met a lot of wonderful people here, including but not limited to doctors, local and overseas students. It is always enjoyable getting to know new people in a new environment, and exchange medical knowledge and new ideas with them. This enabled me to think beyond the box by learning from those who are wiser than me. Throughout my further learning process in becoming a good doctor, I would always remind myself to continue to stay humble, work hard and strive for the best.

